

Amesbury Dec. 30. 1834.

Dear Bro. Garrison

So you see the signal for another battle is given. The old Rampart is to be given up & the enemy is going to marshal himself under a new one. The flag of the "Union" is unfurled but alas for our enemies, names do not alter things & a "union" based on the wreck of Colonization & Colonization principles will sooner or later fly to atoms. I write this merely to say that I am on my way to Boston that I may be in at the tilt before us - i.e. if the door is open to us Immediatists. I came to this place yesterday from Dover & am hedged in by a tremendous snow storm. We have ^{had} four grand meetings at Dover. Root the Congregationalist, Williams the Baptist, & Perkins the Methodist clergyman are heartily with us, & the way I think is prepared for Thompson to come & lecture with overwhelling effect there. Mr Root's church was literally filled Sabbath evening. I have been having a very pleasant conversation to day with Bro. Towne - indoctrinating him etc. etc.

But now in regard to the convention - I have not seen the last Liberator & do not know whether you said anything in regard to the "American Union" project or not. If you did or did not I want to caution ^{you} to think twice before you speak once. It becomes us to take heed to our ways just in this juncture. If we do, & thus work warily & at the same time stand firm to our principles - particularly the of Im. Em. - I am not concerned for the result. Pride and

Prejudice, may erect a Babel & they will, but it will tumble about their ears & end in a confusion of tongues. It is as certain as God's truth is unchangeable. I shall come along as soon as I can - perhaps by Thursday night. But lest I should not I thought I would give you the above caution, & also suggest that in your next you ask a variety of questions - e.g. -

1. On what principle or principles is the Union to be based? Or is to be not a Union of "principles but of measures," & thus be only another name for Colonization?
2. The Union proposes itself as a measure of reform - what is the principle of reform - total abstinence, or moderate drinking, or neither? Or is it a reform without any principle of reform?
3. Will the Convention be open for Immediate Emancipation - is to take part in its deliberations?
4. Should ~~the Union be~~ it be proposed to form a Union on the basis of "Emancipation as speedily as possible", as the Recorder phrases it, will some one state, What "Emancipation as speedily as possible" is? All are for Emancipation of some sort, but some are for one kind of Emancipation, & some for another. The question then is, what kind of Emancipation shall we aim at? - Immediate, Gradual, or Emancipation as speedily as possible? If the last - what kind of Emancipation is it? Or if the phrase, "as speedily as possible" is not intended to describe the kind of Emancipation, but the time when it shall take place, then, when is "as speedily as possible"? - now - to morrow - when? If it does not mean now, to day, will it mean now, to morrow, or like to morrow itself, will it never come? Is "as speedily as possible" now, or never? And if it means ~~some~~ not the present but some future indefinite time, when is the authority for such

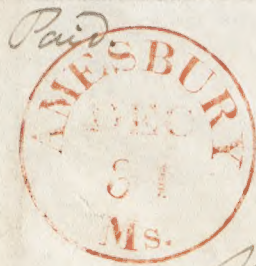
a doctrine of duty - a doctrine which says sin on now - don't
leave off now, but as speedily as possible?

Just talk the matter over with Thompson - pray
over it, & in every thing we do, let us act as if we were
to stand the next moment at the judgment; let us
seek direction from God, stand by him & his truth & he
will stand by us. I hope to see you soon. In the
mean time remember affects to all friends.

Yours truly

Amos A Phelps

P.S. This letter you will not publish of course, unless it
be the questions, & those without my name.



PAID

W^m L. Garrison

Boston

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